

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-43. (Cancelled).

44. (New) An apparatus for producing hollow strands by drawing at least one settable liquid in a drawing direction, comprising:

a nozzle having an outer shell and a needle, said nozzle extending in the drawing direction; and

at least one displacement body projecting out of the nozzle in the drawing direction, wherein said at least one displacement body comprises a hollow body that is open with respect to the at least one settable liquid, said hollow body being arranged in said nozzle between said outer shell and said needle, said hollow body projecting out of said nozzle in the drawing direction.

45. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said at least one displacement body has a cross sectional dimension, and wherein said at least one displacement body projects out of said nozzle in the drawing direction by at least half said cross sectional dimension.

46. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said at least one displacement body comprises a body boundary in contact with the at least one settable liquid, said body boundary ending in a point or sharp edge and said body boundary being arranged outside said nozzle.

47. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said outer shell comprises a shell boundary that is in contact with the hollow strand, said shell boundary comprising break-off edge in the drawing direction, wherein detaching of the hollow strand from said nozzle takes place substantially at said break-off edge.

48. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein said shell boundary comprises a material that is poorly wetted by the at least one settable liquid.

49. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, further comprising connecting elements for connecting said at least one displacement body to said nozzle.

50. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said at least one displacement body is held by a holder such that it can slide in a horizontal and/or a vertical direction with respect to said nozzle.

51. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said outer shell is cylindrical.

52. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said at least one displacement body is cylindrical.

53. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said at least one displacement body is arranged coaxially with respect to said nozzle.

54. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said at least one displacement body and said nozzle define a gap therebetween, said gap being sufficient to permit a predeterminable throughput at a given viscosity of the at least one settable liquid.

55. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said at least one displacement body comprises dimensions that are not constant in a plane that is perpendicular to a longitudinal axes of said at least one displacement body.

56. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, further comprising a temperature-control device for controlling a temperature of said outer shell and/or of said at least one displacement body.

57. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein said temperature-control device comprises a muffle arranged beneath said nozzle.

58. (New) The apparatus as claimed claim 56, wherein said temperature-control device comprises an inductive heating device.

59. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein said temperature-control device comprises at least one temperature-control element having a variably adjustable position.

60. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 56, wherein said temperature-control device comprises at least two temperature-control elements that are independent of one another.

61. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, further comprising a device for applying a liquid to the hollow strand.

62. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said at least one displacement body comprises a material selected from the group consisting of a high-melting metal, a precious metal, a refractory metal, a ceramic material, an alloy of one or more of the foregoing, and any combinations thereof.

63. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, further comprising a device for generating a pressure difference between an interior and an exterior of the hollow strand.

64. (New) A process for producing a hollow strand, comprising:
providing a settable liquid;
producing a hollow strand by drawing said settable liquid out of a nozzle in a drawing direction, said nozzle having an outer shell and a needle; and
arranging a hollow displacement body that is open with respect to said settable liquid in said nozzle between said outer shell and said needle so that a portion of said hollow displacement body projects out of said nozzle in said drawing direction.

65. (New) The process as claimed in claim 64, wherein displacement body and said nozzle define a gap therebetween, said gap being sufficient to permit a predeterminable throughput at a given viscosity of the settable liquid.

66. (New) The process as claimed in claim 65, further comprising adjusting a position of said displacement body horizontally and/or vertically adjustable.

67. (New) The process as claimed in claim 66, further comprising adjusting a length of said portion as a result of adjusting said position so that said settable liquid has a viscosity that is sufficiently high for the hollow strand to be under tensile stress during drawing.

68. (New) The process as claimed in claim 64, further comprising controlling a temperature of said outer shell and/or of said displacement body.

69. (New) The process as claimed in claim 64, further comprising setting a temperature surrounding the hollow strand so that said settable liquid, at a lower end of said displacement body, has a viscosity that is sufficiently high for the hollow strand to be under tensile stress during drawing.

70. (New) The process as claimed in claim 65, further comprising adjusting a position of at least one temperature-control element.

71. (New) The process as claimed in claim 64, further comprising applying a liquid to the hollow strand in draw bulb region.

72. (New) The process as claimed in claim 64, further comprising setting said settable liquid to form a tube.

73. (New) The process as claimed in claim 64, further comprising generating a pressure difference between an interior and an exterior of the hollow strand.

74. (New) The process as claimed in claim 64, wherein said settable liquid comprises a glass melt.

75. (New) The process as claimed in claim 64, wherein the hollow strand has a substantially amorphous solid.

76. (New) The process as claimed in claim 75, wherein the hollow strand comprises glass.

77. (New) The process as claimed in claim 64, wherein the hollow strand has a surface on the inner side and or an outer side of the tube is substantially smooth.

78. (New) The process as claimed in claim 76, further comprising converting the hollow strand into a glass-ceramic by targeted bulk crystallization, and wherein the hollow strand comprises a glass-ceramic tube having Zerodur.

79. (New) A fiber produced that has been manufactured using the process as in claim 64, wherein the fiber is substantially free of crystallization at the surface and has substantially no unevenness at free surfaces.